

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I say to the Senator from North Dakota that if we are going to prepare ourselves for the future, we have to prepare for the possibility of a reduction. I don't think that is wild-eyed thinking.

The Republican plan makes no contingency plan that suggests we might have a downturn in the economy. We should be reducing the debt and pledging our surplus, whatever it may be, to reducing that debt and making certain Social Security and Medicare are there for years to come.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Maine is recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The distinguished Senator is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

I further ask unanimous consent that the time reserved for the Senator from Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH, be given to the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Mr. DEWINE pertaining to the introduction of S. 1412 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceed to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1217, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1217) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Gregg amendment No. 1272, to extend the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund through fiscal year 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is amendment No. 1272, on which there will be 1 hour of debate equally divided.

The distinguished Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, under the unanimous consent agreement from last night, we were going to reserve 30 minutes of the time for two Democratic Members of the Senate, Senator LEAHY and Senator BIDEN. Senator BIDEN and Senator LEAHY had 30 minutes of this time. I now ask unanimous consent that the final 10 minutes of the time be reserved for myself, and prior to that, the 10 minutes prior to that, be reserved for the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask the time be allocated to the underlying amendment and charged equally against both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Delaware, Mr. BIDEN, I ask that Andrew Kline be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I suggest the absence of a quorum under the same arrangement, the time charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. First of all, I take this time because I want to talk a little bit about the plight of American agriculture and our Nation's farmers and to talk about a bill that I will be introducing shortly.

U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, like so many of my fellow Senators, I just came from the memorial service that took place in Statuary Hall for the two police officers, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut, who gave their lives 1 year ago defending the Capitol and

those of us who work in these hallowed Halls.

I just got to thinking, when I was there watching all of the uniformed police officers standing so gallantly up on the platform, what a tough job these policemen have, what a terribly tough job they have.

On the one hand, because of the very nature of our jobs, we have to be accessible; we have to expose ourselves to the public on a daily basis, whether it is out in the front of the Capitol or over in the grass or walking between offices. We have to be available and accessible to the public. The police officers have to let us be accessible. We cannot put a shield around us.

On the other hand, it is the police officers' sworn duty to protect us and to keep us safe from harm.

All police officers have a tough job in this country. I think, above all, the police officers who work in and around the Capitol have the toughest job of all because they have these two conflicting responsibilities—to make us accessible, to not put shields around us, to keep this an open, public place, to be the shrine of freedom, and, on the other hand, to protect us and defend us from harm.

I just must say, I am as guilty as anyone; I never take the time to thank the police officers who protect us. We pass by them every day. We go in and out of the doors. We see them on the subway. We exchange pleasantries.

I am going to make an extra special effort from now on just to say thank you to these police officers, the men and women who protect us daily in the Capitol and who, as Officers Chestnut and Gibson showed a year ago, are willing to lay down their lives for us. We should thank them every day. I do so now and will make a special effort to do so in the future.

(The remarks of Mr. HARKIN pertaining to the introduction of legislation is located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR., CAROLYN BESSETTE KENNEDY, AND LAUREN BESSETTE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise with great sadness today to pay tribute to the lives of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette. My thoughts and prayers are with these families, for at this very moment, as we know, they are at sea to bring these wonderful, outstanding young Americans to a final rest.

We in the Senate, of course, feel very close to this tragedy because of our affection for our own colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY. We in Maryland feel very close to this family because we are the home to Eunice and Sarge Shriver, to Mark Shriver, who has taken his place in the House of Delegates, and our own Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who lost a brother just a few months ago. As the eldest of